

10732 Hampton Road
Fairfax Station, VA 22039
20 December 2001

Ms. Renata Hesse, Esq.
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW (Room 1200)
Washington, DC 20530

F : 202-616-9937

Dear Ms. Renata :

As I express views following, please do not misconstrue them as personal but directed toward larger issues of government's role in national affairs.

I am not a particular admirer of Microsoft and find fault with many of their practices. But it was a sad day for America when Department of Justice intruded into the private sector with intent to coerce Microsoft into an inferior position. Federal penchant for control and intervention has cost our country dearly.

Harassment by Justice shook Microsoft so that public investors lost money in that protracted process. Great public expense is accrued as Justice continues the process of "negotiating a settlement", an exercise that keeps federal lawyers employed at taxpayers' expense. This DOJ exercise is especially egregious because it does not add to national wealth or benefit and is a net decrement because federal employees do not pay taxes, only recycle taxes revenues originated solely by the private, profit-making sector.

Most federal employees do not know how the private sector works but insist on policies to inject government into private affairs causing harm to the US economy and offense to taxpayers, most of whom are not dependent on government. My view of you and the Antitrust Division is similar to my urgings to former President Clinton and his retinue; GO AWAY ! Stop doing harm to my country and taxpayers who are coerced to support frivolous federal behavior.

Sincerely,



R. Barry Ashby